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THE WAY OF LIFE

A

SERVICE BOOK FOR SUNDAY SCHOOLS

COMPILED BY

FREDERICK L. HOSMER

"Teach me thy way, O Lord,
I will walk in thy truth."
—Ps. lxxxvi. 11.

NEW YORK
G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS
182 FIFTH AVENUE
1877

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Received Oct. 16, 1893.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE following Service Book has been prepared at the request of several friends engaged in Sunday-School work, who, in common with the author, have felt the need of something different from the manuals already in print. It is published in the interest of no one denomination or sect, but seeks rather to appeal to, and to be the expression of those sentiments which lie at the heart of all our religion, and to foster these in the child: a sense of God's Omnipresence and Fatherhood and trust in the Divine Love and Wisdom, the great lessons of human Brotherhood, the supremacy of Duty, the Immortality of the Soul.

A few words by way of suggestion and explanation are here offered to those using the book:

The contents are arranged under four divisions, Responsive Services, Prayers, Poems, and Closing Sentences. Material is thus furnished which the superintendent can group together and combine

with musical exercises in such order and amount as he may choose, thereby affording greater freedom and variety than where each service is arranged by itself in connected form. A selection from the Poems may be made occasionally and read by the school in concert, or used in such way as may be desired.

A pleasant and attractive service is made by interweaving verses of song with the responses, as in the services "Listening for God," and "Help for the Faithful." It was the compiler's intention at first to arrange several services in this way; but a difficulty was foreseen in the fact that different singing-books are used by different schools, and music that would be familiar to one might not be within reach of another. To meet this end, therefore, and avoid the difficulty, spaces have been made in many of the responsive services, thus making it easy for the superintendent or leader to use them connectedly, or to interweave with them any appropriate song from the book in use by the school. The *Gloria Patri* (see last of the Closing Sentences) sung by the whole school, may often be brought into a service. For this purpose it should be learned by heart, both the music and the words.

Instead of the superintendent on one side and scholars on the other, as is the usual custom in reading the responsive service, it will be found a pleasant change to make two divisions of the school, and let them take the service between them. It is more apt to engage the attention of the whole school, and adds interest to the reading.

The fortieth service is designed to be used at a funeral, as a part of the services of the occasion. If possible, let some of the members of the school, selected with reference to the age of the deceased, be present, and read the service responsively with the minister. This will be found a peculiarly tender and appropriate part of the service, to which, also, may be added singing by the scholars. No funeral prayer is here inserted—all utterance so personal and conditioned by a variety of circumstances, being best left to the person conducting the service and to the promptings of the hour.

Of the Responsive Services, a few have been compiled from Mrs. Barbauld's "Hymns in Prose," whose worth time has well attested. In the compilations from the Bible, the common version has been used for the most part, but other translations have been consulted, regard being had not only to

the meaning of the text, but also to the measure and parallelism of the lines.

In such a work much of course is drawn from fields that lie freely open to all. Acknowledgments, however, are due to Messrs. Osgood & Co., for permission to use the poems taken from their publications, and to the Secretary of the American Unitarian Association, Rev. R. R. Shippen, for leave to use the Association's manuals, from which four of the prayers are in substance taken. The compiler would also acknowledge his indebtedness to the English author of "Lilliput Lectures," from whose admirable volume three of the poems have been taken; and lastly, he desires here to express his obligations to those friends whose counsel and contributions have been a valuable help to him in his work.

F. L. HOSMER.

BOSTON, May, 1877.

I.

GOD.

THERE is one God and Father of all,
  Above all and through all and in us all;
In Him we live and move,
  In Him we have our being:
Of Him and through Him and in Him are all things,
  To whom be the glory forever.

Canst thou by searching find out God?
  Canst thou find out the Almighty to perfection?
Lo, He goeth by me but I see Him not:
  He passeth along, but I cannot behold Him.
Great is He and we comprehend Him not:
  Neither can the number of His years be searched out.
Where wast thou, saith the Lord,—
  When I laid the foundations of the earth;
When the morning stars sang together,
  And all created things shouted for joy!

He that spreadeth out the heavens,
And walketh upon the waves of the sea,
That maketh the day dark with night,
And turneth the shadows of night into morning:—
That calleth for the waters of the deep
And poureth them out upon the face of the earth:—
The Lord is His name—
And beside Him there is none else.

With Him is the fountain of life:
Through His light we see light.
His righteousness is like the high mountains:
His judgments are a great deep!
The Eternal is an everlasting God;
He fainteth not neither is weary.
He giveth power to the faint;
To the feeble He increaseth strength.
They that wait upon Him shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings as eagles:
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.

II.

THE HEAVENS DECLARE HIS GLORY.

THE heavens declare the glory of God,
The firmament showeth his handiwork:
Day unto day uttereth wisdom,
And night unto night showeth knowledge.
They have no speech nor language,
Their voice is not heard:
Yet their sound goeth forth to all the earth,
And their words to the ends of the world.
The law of the Lord is perfect,
Reviving the soul:
The precepts of the Lord are sure,
Making wise the simple:
The statutes of the Lord are right,
Rejoicing the heart:
The commandments of the Lord are pure,
Enlightening the eyes:
The service of the Lord is clean,
Enduring forever;

The judgments of the Lord are true,
And righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
Sweeter than honey and the honeycomb:
By them also are thy children warned,
And in keeping them there is great reward.
Who can tell how oft he erreth?
O cleanse Thou me from unknown faults!
Keep me also from presumptuous sins;
Let them not have dominion over me:
Then shall I be upright;
I shall be innocent from great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth
And the meditations of my heart
Be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord,
My Strength and my Redeemer!

III.

THE ALL-SEEING ONE.

O LORD, Thou hast searched me and known me:
Thou understandest my thoughts from afar:
Thou seest my path and my lying-down,
And art acquainted with all my ways:
Before the word is upon my tongue,
Behold, O Lord, Thou knowest it altogether!
Thou besettest me behind and before,
And layest Thine hand upon me!
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is high, I cannot attain to it!
Whither shall I go from Thy spirit?
Whither shall I flee from Thy presence?
If I ascend into the heavens, Thou art there:
If I make my bed in the depths, Thou art there:
If I take the wings of the morning
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there shall Thy hand lead me,
And Thy right hand shall hold me!

If I say, Surely the darkness will cover me,—
  Even the night shall be light about me!
Yea, the darkness hideth not from Thee,
  But the night shineth as the day!
How precious to me are Thy thoughts, O God!
  How great is the sum of them!
If I count them, they outnumber the sands:
  When I awake I am still with Thee!
Search me, O God, and know my heart:
  Try me and know my thoughts:
And see if there be any evil way in me,
  And lead me in the way everlasting.

IV.

LISTENING FOR GOD.

AND Hannah took her child Samuel with her and brought him unto the temple of the Lord. And she said to Eli, the priest, "I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord." And the child did minister unto the Lord before Eli the priest. And his mother made him a little coat and brought it to him from year

to year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

And it came to pass one time when Eli had lain down in his place, and his eyes began to grow dim that he could not see, and Samuel was laid down to rest, that the Lord called Samuel; and he answered, "Here am I." And he ran unto Eli and said, "Here am I, for thou callest me." And Eli said, "I called not; lie down again." And the Lord called yet again: "Samuel." And the child arose and went to Eli and said, "Here am I, for thou didst call me." And Eli answered, "I called not, my son, lie down again."

Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither did he understand how the Lord speaketh. And the Lord called him again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here am I; for thou didst call me." And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child. Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say: 'Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the Lord called as at other times; "Samuel, Samuel." Then Samuel answered, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth."

I hear it often in the dark,
I hear it in the light,—
Where is the voice that calls to me
With such a quiet might?

O sweet surprise of inner skies
Those voices still and strong!
They fill my inward silences
With music and with song.

It is not hidden from us,
Neither is it afar off;
But the word is very nigh unto us:
Even in our hearts, that we may do it.

They send me challenges to right,
And loud rebuke my ill:
They ring my bells of victory,
They breathe my "Peace, be still."

Chorus.

Know ye not that ye are God's temple,
And that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?
There is one God and Father of all,
Who is above all, and through all, and within us all.

O God within, so close to me
That every thought is plain,
Be judge, be friend, be Father still,
And in thy heaven reign!

Chorus.

V.

OUR COMFORT IN TROUBLE.

GOD is our refuge and strength;
A very present help in trouble:
The confidence of all the ends of the earth,
And of them afar off upon the sea:
A Father of the fatherless,
A strength to the needy in his distress,
A refuge for the oppressed,
Our dwelling-place in all generations.
They that know his Name
Will put their trust in Him,
In the midst of trouble He will revive them;
None trusting in Him will ever be desolate.

The Lord upholdeth all that fall;
He raiseth up all that be bowed down.
He maketh sore and bindeth up;
He woundeth and maketh whole.
Weeping may endure for a night,
But joy cometh in the morning;
And they that sow in tears
Ere long shall reap in joy.
He that goeth forth weeping, bearing precious seed,
Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.
Cast thy burden upon the Lord,
And He will sustain thee.
Wait on Him and be of good courage,
And He will strengthen thine heart.

VI.

GOD THE CREATOR.

COME, let us walk abroad;
Let us talk of the works of God.
The sands are tossed up by the shore,
The blades of grass cover the green fields.
One cannot count them: they are innumerable;
Much more, all the things that God hath made!
The fir groweth on the high mountain,
And the grey willow bends above the stream.
The hop layeth hold with her tendrils and claspeth the tall pole;
The oak hath firm root in the ground, and resisteth the storm.
The daisy dotteth the meadow with blooms,
And the mosses cling fast to the grey rocks.
The water-lilies grow beneath the stream,
The iris and reed spring up in the marsh.
Look at the flowers that cover the fields,
The plants that make glad the wayside paths!

The hand of man hath not planted them,
The sower hath not scattered the seed.
Who causeth them to grow everywhere,
And bloweth the seeds about in winds,
And mixeth them with the rich mould,
And watereth them with soft rains?
Who fanneth them with the breath of heaven,
And spreadeth the morning upon their leaves?
Who preserveth them alive through the winter-cold,
When the sharp frost biteth upon the plain?
Who breatheth on them the breath of spring,
And the green leaves sprout from the dry root?
Lo, these are a part of His works,
And a little portion of His wonders!
They all speak of Him who made them:
Every field is like an open book;
Every murmuring brook hath a tongue,
A voice is in every whispering wind.
We cannot see God, for He is invisible:
But everywhere His hand-work, His footsteps in the sand.
They that know the most will praise Him best:
But which of us can number half His works!

VII.

GOD IN NATURE.

COME, and I will show you what is beautiful:
It is a rose fully blown.
See how she sits upon her mossy stem
Like the queen of all the flowers!
Her leaves glow like fire:
She is the delight of every eye!
She is beautiful, but there is a fairer than she:
He that made the rose is more beautiful than the rose.

Come, and I will show you what is strong:
The lion is strong.
When he raiseth himself up from his lair,
When the voice of his roaring is heard,
The cattle of the field fly;
The wild beasts of the desert hide themselves.
The lion is strong, but there is a stronger than he:
He that made the lion is stronger than the lion.

Come, and I will show you what is glorious:
The sun is glorious, when he shineth in the sky:
When he sitteth on the bright throne in the heavens,
When he looketh abroad over all the earth.
The sun is glorious, but there is one more glorious than he:
He that made the sun is more glorious than the sun.

Who is this great Name, that our lips may praise Him?
This great Name is God.
It is He that maketh all things;
But He himself is more excellent than all which He hath made.
They are beautiful,
But He is Beauty:
They are strong,
But He is Strength:
They are perfect,
But He is Perfection.

VIII.

GOD IN ALL THINGS.

CHILD of reason, whence comest thou?
What hath thine eye seen,
And whither hath thy foot been wandering?

I have been wandering along the green meadows:
The cattle were feeding around me,
The fields were bright with summer and glowing with beauty.

Didst thou see nothing more?
Return again, child of reason,
For there are greater things than these!

I have walked through the thick forest;
The wind whispered among the trees;
The brook fell from the rocks with a pleasant murmur.

Didst thou hear nothing but the wind and the brook?
Return again, child of reason,
For there are greater things than these!

I saw black clouds shut out the sun:
The lightning flashed and the thunder shook the sky,
And I felt afraid; for it was terrible.

Did thy heart feel no terror but of the thunder-bolt?
Was there nothing bright and terrible but the lightning?
Return again, for there are greater things than these!

God was in the storm:
God is in every place;
He speaks in every sound we hear.

God was among the trees:
His breath was in their trembling leaves;
His music in the murmur of the water.

God was among the fields:
Nothing, O child of reason, is without God:
Let God therefore be in all thy thoughts.

IX.

GOD OUR SHEPHERD, FATHER, AND KING.

BEHOLD the shepherd of the flock!
He taketh care for his sheep;
He leadeth them among clear brooks,
He guideth them to fresh pastures.

If the young lambs are weary
He carrieth them in his arms:
If they wander
He bringeth them back.

But who is the shepherd's Shepherd?
Who taketh care for him?
Who guideth him in the path he should go?
And if he wander, who shall bring him back?

God is the shepherd's Shepherd:
He is the Shepherd over all,

The whole earth is His fold,
And He taketh care for all.

The mother loveth her little child:
She bringeth it up on her knees;
She nourisheth its body with food,
She feedeth its mind with knowledge.

She watcheth over it when asleep;
She forgetteth it not for a moment:
She teacheth it how to be good;
She rejoiceth daily in its growth.

But who is the Parent of the mother?
Who nourisheth her with good things,
And watcheth over her with tender love,
And remembereth her every moment?

God is the Parent of the mother:
He is the Parent of all.
All in the wide world are His children:
He loveth all, and is good to all.

The king governeth his people:
He hath a golden crown upon his head,

And the royal sceptre is in his hand;
He sendeth forth his law.

His subjects stand in awe before him:
If they do well, he maketh them to prosper;
And if they do evil,
He punisheth them.

But who is the Sovereign of the king?
Who writeth the law upon his heart?
In whose strength is he made strong?
And if he doeth evil, who shall punish him?

God is the Sovereign of the king:
He judgeth both high and low;
His law reacheth to all worlds,
The light of His countenance to every heart.

God is our Shepherd,
Therefore we will follow Him:
God is our Father,
Therefore we will love Him:
God is our King;
Therefore we will obey Him.

X.

THE INVITATION.

COME unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden,
And I will give you rest;
Take my yoke upon you and learn of me;
For I am meek and lowly of heart,
And ye shall find rest unto your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Ask and it shall be given you:
Seek and ye will find:
Knock and it will be opened to you.
For every one that asketh receiveth;
And he that seeketh findeth,
And to him that knocketh the door is opened.
For the Spirit of Truth will guide us into all truth;
And we shall know the truth, and the truth will make us free.

XI.

THE TRUE DISCIPLESHIP.

FOR this cause came I into the world,
And to this end was I born:
That I should bear witness to the truth
And work the works of Him that sent me.
And if any one desires to come after me,
Let him deny himself and take up his cross.
For I came not to do mine own will,
But the will of the Father that sent me;
And whosoever shall do the will of God,
The same is my brother and my sister.

XII.

THE LIFE OF CHARITY.

THIS is the first and great commandment: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and soul and mind and strength:

And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

There is none other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the Prophets.

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you,

Do ye even so to them.

Who was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves?

He that went to him and showed kindness to him:

Whoso giveth a cup of cold water only, shall not lose the reward:

It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Therefore I say unto you, love even your enemies,

And do good, despairing of no one;

And your reward shall be great,

And ye shall be the children of the Highest:

For He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good,

And sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Be ye therefore perfect,

Even as the Father in heaven is perfect.

XIII.

THE JUDGMENT OF LIFE.

WHEN the King shall come in his glory,

And all the holy angels with him,

Then shall He sit upon the throne of his glory,

And all nations shall be gathered before him.

And the King shall say: "Come ye blesséd,

Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

For I was hungry and ye gave me food;
I was thirsty and ye gave me drink;
I was a stranger and ye took me in;
Naked, and ye clothed me;
I was sick and ye visited me;
I was in prison and ye came unto me."

Then the RIGHTEOUS shall answer him, saying:
"Lord, when saw we thee hungry and fed thee;
Or thirsty, and gave thee drink?
When saw we thee a stranger and took thee in,
Or naked, and clothed thee?
When saw we thee sick or in prison and came unto thee?"

And the King shall answer and say unto them:
"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me."

And they shall come from the north and the south, and from the east and the west,
And sit down together in the kingdom of God.

XIV.

THE BEATITUDES ON THE MOUNT.

BLESSED are the poor in spirit:
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are the meek:
For they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are they that mourn:
For they shall be comforted.
Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness:
For they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful:
For they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart:
For they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers:
For they shall be called the children of God.
Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness' sake:
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

XV.

THE SUNDAY MEETING.

I WAS glad when they said unto me,
Let us go up to the house of the Lord:
For He will teach us of His ways
And we will walk in His paths.
Return unto thy rest, O my soul!
For the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee.
Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.

What shall I render to the Lord
For all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving,
And call upon the name of the Lord.
It is good to give thanks unto the Lord,
And to sing praises unto His name:
To behold the beauty of the Lord,
And to inquire in His temple.

Trust in Him at all times, ye people;
Pour out your heart before Him.
Trust ye in the Lord forever:
For in the Lord, the Eternal, is everlasting strength.

XVI.

THE ACCEPTED OFFERING.

WHEREWITH shall we come before the Lord,
And bow ourselves before the Most High?
He hath shown us in our hearts what is good,
And what it is that He doth require:
To do justly, to love mercy,
And to walk humbly with our God.
We will offer the sacrifices of righteousness,
And put our trust in the Lord:
For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness,
The upright shall behold his face.
The wicked seeketh not his statutes;
All his thoughts are "There is no God:"
He saith in his heart "God doth forget;
He hideth his face: he doth never see it."

He that formed the eye, shall He not see?
He that planted the ear, shall He not hear?
Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness!
Make thy way straight before my face!
Thou desirest not sacrifice;
Thou delightest not in burnt offerings:
Behold Thou desirest truth in the heart;
So teach me wisdom in my inmost soul.
Create within me a clean heart, O God!
And renew within me a right spirit.

XVII.

THE WAY OF LIFE.

ENTER not into the path of the wicked,
And go not in the way of evil men:
Avoid it; pass not by it:
Turn from it and pass away.
If sinners entice thee,
Consent thou not.
If they say "Come with us,
Thou shalt cast thy lot among us,"—

Walk not thou in their way;
  Refrain thy foot from their path.
For their feet run to evil,
  And make haste to shed blood.

Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright:
  The end of that man is peace.
For light is sown for the righteous,
  And gladness for the upright in heart:
And the path of the just is as the dawning light
  That shineth more and more unto the perfect
    day.

The stars in their courses uphold the righteous,
  The stones of the field are in league with him.
Therefore walk thou in the path of the good
  And keep the way of the righteous:
Then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot;
  Yea, thou shalt be steadfast and without fear.
Thy life shall be clearer than the noonday;
  Thou shalt shine as the morning light.

XVIII.

THE ARMOR OF LIFE.

BLESSED is the man that endureth temptation:
For he shall receive the crown of life.
This charge therefore I commit unto you,
That ye may war a good warfare.

Be strong in the Lord
And in the power of his might.
Put on the whole armor of God,
That ye may be able to stand in the evil day.
Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,
And having on the breastplate of righteousness:
Your feet shod with the gospel of peace,
And for an helmet the hope of salvation:
Take the shield of faith; and the sword of the Spirit,
Which is the word of God in the heart.

Be ye faithful unto death,
Enduring hardness like good soldiers:
That at the close ye may be able to say:
"I have fought the good fight,
I have finished my course.
Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of life,
Which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me in that day:
And not to me only,
But to all them that have loved Him."

XIX.

MANY GIFTS, BUT ONE GIVER.

As many as are led by the Spirit of God
They are the sons of God:
For there are differing gifts,
But the same Spirit;
And there are different kinds of service,
But the same Lord;

And there are different ways of working,
But it is the same God that worketh in all.
Having then this manifestation of the Spirit,
Let us not neglect the gift that is in us;
But let us be diligent in business,
Fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.
And whatsoever we do, do it heartily;
Not with eye-service, as men-pleasers,
But studying to show ourselves approved unto God,
Doing the will of God from the heart.
And let us not be weary in well-doing,
For in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

XX.

THE BOND OF BROTHERHOOD.

BEHOLD how good and pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity!
For there the Lord commandeth a blessing,
Even life for evermore.

For he that would love life and see good days,
Let him seek peace and pursue it;
Let him refrain his tongue from evil,
And his lips from speaking guile.
Therefore laying aside all malice,
All envy and evil-speaking,—
Follow after the things which make for peace,
And the things whereby we may help one another.
Love as brethren and be courteous,
Putting on the ornament of a meek and gentle spirit;
And over all put on charity,
Which is the bond of perfectness.
And be ye kind, tender-hearted, forgiving one another,
Even as God in his loving-kindness forgiveth us.

Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children,
And walk in love,
Keeping the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace;
And the God of love and peace will be with us.

XXI.

DOING GOOD TO OTHERS.

WHOSO hath this world's living
And seeth his brother having need,
And shutteth up his heart from his brother,
How dwelleth the love of God in him?
For he that loveth not the brother whom he hath seen,
How can he love God, whom he hath not seen?
Therefore withhold not kindness from them that need it
When it is in the power of thy hand to do it:
And to do good and communicate, forget not,
And to be rich in good works:
Remember them that are in bonds as if bound with them,
And those who suffer adversity, as yourselves in distress:
Bear ye one another's burdens,

Remembering that love is the fulfilling of the law.
Rejoice with them that rejoice,
And weep with them that weep.
Be eyes to the blind,
Feet to the lame,—
Loving not in word nor in deed only
But in very truth.
For though we give all our goods to feed the poor,
And have not the spirit of love,—
If we have not the spirit of love,—
It profiteth us nothing.
And now there abide faith, hope, love: these three:
But the greatest of these is love.

XXII.

LIBERALITY.

CAST thy bread upon the waters,
And thou shalt find it after many days.
If thou hast abundance, give plenteously;
If thou hast little, give according to that little.

The liberal deviseth liberal things,
And by liberal things shall he stand.
There is that scattereth
And yet increaseth:
There is that withholdeth more than is right,
Yet he cometh to want,
There is who maketh himself rich,
Yet hath nothing:
There is who maketh himself poor,
Yet hath great riches.
For he that soweth sparingly
Shall reap also sparingly:
And he that soweth bountifully
Shall reap also bountifully.
If thou divide thy bread with the hungry
And satisfy the afflicted soul,
Then in obscurity shall light arise to thee,
And thy darkness shall become as noonday.

XXIII.

HELP FOR THE FAITHFUL.

I LIFT up mine eyes to the hills:
Whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to stumble:
He that keepeth thee doth not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel
Doth neither slumber nor sleep.

* O the Father's hands are helping
In the work you have to do:
Have you never felt them lifting
When the task is hard for you?
There is help for the faithful,
There is help for the faithful,
There is help for the faithful,
There is help for you.

* Tune "Rest for the Weary."

If thou faint in the day of adversity
Small is thy strength:
Be not cast down, O my soul!
And be not disquieted within me.
They that wait upon the Lord
Shall renew their strength:
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.

Though the day be dark with sorrow,
And the way be hard and long,
Yet His love shall light the morrow,
And in His strength you are strong.
There is help for the faithful, etc.

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do,
Do it, therefore, with thy might:
Being fruitful in every good work,
Doers of the word and not hearers only.
He that is faithful in that which is least,
Is faithful also in much:
And let us not be weary in well-doing,
For in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

What your hands find good in doing,
Do you then with all your might:
Though the work be plain and lowly,
It is blessed in His sight.
There is help for the faithful, etc.

XXIV.

THE PRAISE OF WISDOM.

HAPPY is the man that findeth wisdom,
And the man that getteth understanding:
The profit of it is more than that of silver,
And the gain of it than fine gold.
For wisdom is better than rubies:
And all thou canst desire is not equal to her.
Length of days is in her right hand,
And in her left hand riches and honor:
Her ways are ways of pleasantness
And all her paths are peace:
In all ages entering into holy souls
She maketh them friends of God;
For she leadeth in the way of righteousness
And guideth in the way of truth.

She is more beautiful than the sun,
And brighter than the light of morning:
For after the day followeth the darkness;
But the light of wisdom never goeth out.

Whence then cometh wisdom,
And where is the place of understanding?
The depth saith, It is not in me:
And the sea saith, It is not with me:
God knoweth the way to it,
He knoweth its dwelling-place.
When He gave the winds their weight,
And meted out the waters by measure;
When He prescribed a law to the rain,
And a path to the thunder-bolt:—
Then did He see it and make it known.
And unto man He said:
Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom:
And to depart from evil is understanding.

XXV.

GOVERNMENT OF THE TEMPER.

HE that is slow to anger
  Is better than the mighty:
And he that ruleth his spirit
  Than he that taketh a city.
A soft answer turneth away wrath;
  But harsh words stir up anger.
Therefore he that hath knowledge spareth his words;
  He that is of a cool spirit is wise.
It is an honor to a man to cease from strife;
  But every foolish person rusheth into it.
A passionate man will suffer punishment;
  If thou deliver him, yet must thou do it again.
Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue,
  Keepeth his soul from much trouble.

The charm of a man is his kindness;
It is his glory to pass over an offense.

Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him;
If he thirst, give him water to drink:
And let us not be overcome of evil,
But let us overcome evil with good.

XXVI.

IDLENESS AND INDUSTRY.

I PASSED by the field of the slothful,
The vineyard of the man void of understanding:
And lo, it was all overgrown with thorns
And the stone wall thereof was broken down.
Then I saw and considered it well;
I looked upon it and received instruction:
"A little sleep—a little slumber;
A little folding of the hands to rest;"
So shall poverty come upon thee like a robber,
And thy want as an armed man.

Go to the ant, O sluggard!
  Consider her ways and be wise:
She hath no governor,
  Nor overseer, nor ruler;
Yet she prepareth in the summer her food,
  She gathereth in the harvest her meat.
Through wisdom is a house builded,
  And by understanding is it established;
Yea, by knowledge are the chambers filled
  With all precious and goodly substance.
Seest thou a man diligent in his business?
  He shall be the counsellor of kings.

XXVII.

BEATITUDES FROM THE PSALMS.

BLESSED is the man who walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly
  But whose delight is in the law of the Lord.
Blessed are they whose ways are pure,
  Who walk in the path of His commandments.
Blessed are they who keep His statutes,
  And who seek Him with the whole heart.

Blessed are they who regard justice,
And who practise righteousness at all times,
Blessed is the man to whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity,
And in whose spirit there is no guile.
Blessed is he that considereth the poor;
The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.
Blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee, O Lord:
In whose heart are thy ways!
Blessed is the man whom Thou choosest and causest to approach unto Thee:
In thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand are pleasures for evermore.

XXVIII.

THE BREVITY OF LIFE.

BLESS the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me bless his holy name:
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget not all his benefits:

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction,
And crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies.

Lord Thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations:
From everlasting to everlasting Thou art God.
Of old hast Thou laid the foundations of the earth;
And the heavens are the work of Thy hands.
They shall perish
But Thou shalt endure:
As a vesture shalt Thou change them,
And they shall be changed:
But Thou art the same;
And Thy years shall have no end.
Our days Thou hast made as an hand-breadth,
And our years are as nothing before Thee.
Our life is like a shadow that declineth,
And our days swifter than a weaver's shuttle!
They are passed away like the swift ships;
Like the eagle that hasteth to its prey!

Teach us so to number our days
That we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

O satisfy us early with Thy mercy,
That we may be glad and rejoice all our days.
Let thy deeds be known to Thy servants,
And Thy glory to their children:
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
And establish for us the work of our hands.

XXIX.

THE UNSEEN FUTURE.

BEHOLD, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us,
That we should be called children of God!
Beloved, now are we children of God,
And it doth not yet appear what we shall be.
For eye hath not seen nor ear heard,
Neither hath the heart of man conceived,
The things that God hath prepared
For them that love him.
Now we see through a glass darkly,
But then face to face:
Now we know in part,
But then shall we know even as we are known.

And every one that hath this hope in him purifieth himself,
Even as He is pure.
While we look not at the things which are seen,
But at the things which are not seen :
For the things which are seen are but for a time ;
But the things which are not seen are everlasting.

Set your mind therefore on the things above,
Striving to be followers of that which is good ;
And rejoice in the Lord always,
For all things work together for good to them that love Him.

Faithful is He who calleth you ;
His promises of old are faithfulness and truth.
Therefore forgetting the things that are behind
And reaching forth unto the things that are before,
Press onward toward the mark
For the prize of the heavenly calling of God.

XXX.

COMMEMORATION OF THE GOOD.

LET us call to remembrance the great and good,
Who in times past have wrought righteousness :
Leaders of the people by their judgment;
Giving counsel by their understanding;
Wise and just in their example,
And by their knowledge meet for the people.
Their bodies are buried in peace:
But their name liveth for evermore.
The people will tell of their wisdom,
And the congregation will show forth their praise.

For the memorial of virtue is immortal;
Because it is known with God and with men.
When it is present mankind take example of it,
And when it is gone they desire it.

It weareth a crown and triumpheth forever;
Having gotten the victory, striving for undefiled rewards.
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance;
Yea, blessed is the memory of the just!
For they rest from their labors,
And their works do follow them.

Wherefore, seeing we have such examples before us,
Let us lay aside every weight of sin,
And let us run with patience
The race that is set before us:
And whatsoever things are true,
Whatsoever things are honest,
Whatsoever things are just,
Whatsoever things are pure,
Whatsoever things are lovely,
Whatsoever things are of good report,
Whatever virtue there is, and whatever praise,
Let us think on these things.

XXXI.

THE GOOD TIME COMING.

AND it shall come to pass in the last days
That the Lord will pour out of his Spirit upon all flesh;
And He will put His law within them,
And upon their hearts will He write it.
They shall teach no more one to the other,
Saying, "Know ye the Lord,"—
For they shall all know Him,
From the least to the greatest of them.
And He will give them one heart and one way,
That they may serve Him continually.
And He shall be a judge of the nations,
And an umpire among the kingdoms:
He shall make their officers Peace,
And their rulers Righteousness.
Men shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
And their spears into pruning-hooks;

Nation shall not lift up the sword against nation,
Neither shall they learn war any more:
For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
And all flesh shall see it together.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir-tree,
And instead of the bramble shall grow up the myrtle-tree.
The desert and the solitary place shall be glad,
And the wilderness shall blossom as the rose.
The lion shall eat straw like the ox,
And the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
And a little child shall lead them.
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
As the waters cover the depths of the sea.

XXXII.

NATIONAL.

WHEN the righteous are in authority the people rejoice;
But when the wicked bear rule, the people mourn.

Woe unto thee, O land,
When judgment is turned backward;
When justice standeth afar off,
And truth is fallen in the street!
When thy rulers follow after rewards,
And their eyes are blinded with bribes:
When none bringeth his suit with justice,
And no one pleadeth with truth!

Open ye the gates,
That the righteous nation may enter in:
The nation that keepeth the truth,
That establisheth justice!

Blessed art thou, O land,
When thy law is not slackened:
When thou makest thy rulers Righteousness,
And thine officers Peace;
When each one despiseth the gain of oppression,
And shaketh his hands from the holding of bribes:
When he keepeth fast his innocence,
And removeth not his integrity from him:
When he respecteth not the person of the poor,
Nor honoreth the person of the mighty;
But in righteousness serveth the people
And executeth the judgment of truth in thy gates.

For righteousness exalteth a nation,
And by justice is the state established.

Pray for the peace of our land:
May they prosper that love her!
Peace be in all her homes,
And prosperity within her borders!

XXXIII.

NATIONAL.

ARISE, shine, for thy light is come,
And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee!
Awake, put on thy strength, O Zion,
Put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem!
For thou hast drunk at the hand of the Lord the cup of his fury,
Thou hast drunken the dregs of the cup:
He hath taken it out of thy hand,
No more shalt thou drink it again!
For thou hast loosed the bands of wickedness,
Thou hast undone the heavy burdens:
Thou hast broken every yoke,
And let the oppressed go free!

Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel
And thy garments like him that treadeth the wine-vat?
Thou hast trodden the wine-press alone,
And of the nations there was none with thee!
Break forth into joy, O Zion,
Put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem!
For the Lord hath comforted thy people,
He hath redeemed their inheritance.
Go through, go through thy gates,
Prepare the way of thy people:
Cast up, cast up an highway;
Lift up a standard for the nations:
For in righteousness hath the Lord called thee,
And given thee for a light to the kingdoms.

Violence shall no more be heard in thy land,
Wasting nor destruction within thy borders:
But thou shalt call thy walls Salvation,
And thy gates Praise.
Thy gates shall be open continually;
They shall not be shut day nor night:
And nations shall come to thy light,
And kings to the brightness of thy rising.

XXXIV.

NATIONAL.

O GIVE thanks unto the Lord: for He is good:
For His mercy endureth forever.
To Him who alone doeth great wonders;
For His mercy endureth forever.

O God, we have heard with our ears,
Our fathers have told us,
What deeds Thou didst in their days,
What Thou didst in the days of old.
With a strong hand and an outstretched arm
Thou didst guide the people across the sea;
Thou didst scatter the inhabitants before them
And didst cause our fathers to prosper.
For not by their swords obtained they the land,
Nor did their own arms give them the victory:
But thy right hand and thine arm,
Because Thou hadst favor unto them.

When they went from nation to nation,
From one kingdom to another people,

Thou didst suffer no man to turn them;
Thou didst reprove kings for their sakes,
When they were yet very few in number,
Very few and strangers in the land;
When they were wandering in the wilderness
And found no city to dwell in;
When they were hungry and thirsty,
And their souls grew faint within them,
Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble,
And He delivered them out of all their distresses.

The little one hath become a thousand,
And the small one a great nation:
Let the redeemed of the Lord say this
Whom He hath redeemed from many lands:
From the East and from the West,
And from the North and from the South,
O let them praise the Lord for His goodness,
For His wonderful works to the children of men.

Our portion hath fallen to us in pleasant places:
Yea, we have a goodly heritage.
The Lord our God be with us
As He was with our fathers:

That He may incline our hearts unto Him
To keep His commandments and to walk in His ways.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
For His mercy endureth forever:
To Him who alone doeth great wonders,
For His mercy endureth forever!

XXXV.

EASTER.

I HAVE seen the rose in its beauty;
I returned, it was dying upon its stalk,
And the grace of the form of it was gone.

I looked again: it had sprung forth afresh;
The stem was crowned with new buds,
And the sweetness thereof filled the air.

I have seen the sun set in the west,
And gloom and darkness brooded around
There was no color, nor shape, nor music.

I looked: the sun broke forth again from the east,
The lark rose to meet him from her low nest,
And the shades of darkness fled away.

I have seen the insect spinning its tomb;
It was shrouded in its silken cone,
And lay without shape or power to move.

I looked again: it had burst its tomb;
It rejoiced in its new being,
And sailed on colored wings through the soft air.

O Nature, beautiful Nature, God hath not forsaken thee;
No longer thou sittest mourning and desolate;
The light of His countenance is shed upon thee:

Thy children live again;
They spring up and bloom around thee:
And from the bosom of the ground verdure cometh forth.

Shall the rose bloom anew and shall man perish?
Shall goodness sleep in the ground,
And the light of wisdom be quenched in the dust?

Their winter, too, shall pass away;
They also shall live and bloom again;
Beauty shall spring up out of ashes, and life out of death.

There is a land where the roses are without thorns,
Where no brambles grow among the flowers.

In that land there is eternal spring,
And light without any cloud.

The tree of life groweth in the midst thereof;
Rivers of joy are there and flowers that never fade.

It is the country of those that are good,
And nothing that is wicked must enter there.

This earth is pleasant, for it is God's earth;
But that country is far more beautiful.

We are to be here but for a little while,
But that happy land is our home forever.

Now unto the King eternal, the immortal, invisible, only God,
Be honor and glory forever and ever. *Amen.*

XXXVI.

FLORAL FESTIVAL.

THE cold came out of the North,
From the storehouses of the snow;
The dust grew into hardness,
And the clods cleaved fast together;
The waters were hid as with a stone,
And the face of the deep was frozen.

God sent forth His word and melted them;
He caused His wind to blow and the waters flowed.
He bringeth His sun from the end of the heaven,
And there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.
He bindeth up the waters in His thick clouds:
He watereth the hills from His chambers:
He sendeth the springs into the valleys,
And quieteth the earth with the south wind:
He satisfieth the desolate ground,
And causeth the tender plants to spring forth.

Lo, the winter is past,
The flowers appear again on the earth;
It is the time of the singing of birds,
And their voices are heard in our land;
The orchards put forth their green fruit,
And the vines fill the air with their fragrance.
Consider the lilies, how they grow,
And the roses, how they bloom!
For God hath made everything beautiful in its time;
In the beauty of holiness may we walk before Him.
He causeth the grass to spring up for cattle,
And herb for the service of man:
He filleth the land with the finest of wheat,
And the valleys are covered with corn.

Wherefore if God so clothe the grass of the field,
Will He not much more care for us, His children?
The grass withereth: the flower fadeth:
But he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

XXXVII.

THE HARVEST SEASON.

THE earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof:
The world and they that dwell therein:
He maketh the sun to shine,
And sendeth the rain from heaven,
That it may give seed to the sower
And bread to the eater.
While the earth remaineth
Seed-time and harvest shall not cease.

The summer is past, the harvest is come:
Now is the ingathering of the year.
The sons of men go forth to their labor
And the land yieldeth for them food.
In the fields they reap the harvest
And gather the vintage from the vineyard.
The hills are girded with gladness,
And the pastures are clothed with flocks.

Blessed of God is the land, for the dew of heaven,
And for the deep that coucheth beneath:
  For the precious fruits brought forth by the sun,
  And for the precious things put forth by the moon:
For the chief things of the ancient mountains,
And for the precious things of the lasting hills:
  For the precious things of the earth and its fullness,
  And for the good-will of Him who giveth all.

Then let the fields be joyful
And all that is therein:
  Let all the trees of the woods
  Be glad before the Lord:
He crowneth the year with His goodness;
The earth is full of His riches;
  The eyes of all wait upon Him;
  He giveth them their meat in due season.
The earth is full of the goodness of God,
And His tender mercies are over all His works.
  Bless the Lord, all ye His works,—
  And let all flesh bless His holy Name forever and ever.

XXXVIII.

WINTER.

THE cold cometh out of the North,
From the storehouses of the snow:
The dust groweth into hardness,
And the clods cleave fast together.
The wild beasts go into their dens,
And abide in their caverns.
The waters are hid as with a stone,
And the face of the deep is frozen.
By the breath of God ice is formed
And the broad waters become narrow.
He giveth snow like wool:
He scattereth the hoar-frost like ashes
He casteth forth His ice like morsels:
Who can stand before His cold?
He maketh the winds His messengers,—
The stormy wind fulfilling His word.
He sendeth forth His law upon the earth:
He establisheth the boundaries of the earth.

He changeth the times and the seasons:
He maketh the summer and the winter.
For everything there is its own season,
A time appointed for everything under the heavens.
And all things work together for good;
For in wisdom hath the Lord made them all.

XXXIX.

CHRISTMAS.

BLESSED be the Lord God,
Who hath not left Himself without witnesses,
But hath spoken by the mouth of holy prophets,
Which have been since the world began.
How beautiful upon the mountains
Are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings;
That publisheth peace,
That proclaimeth salvation!

Glory be to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, good-will to men!

For He hath appeared upon earth
  Who was to come in the fullness of time:
And the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him,
  The spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The spirit of counsel and of might,
  The spirit of love and of trust in God.
He was anointed to preach good tidings to the poor;
  To heal the broken-hearted;
To comfort those that mourn;
  To proclaim freedom for the oppressed;
To give light to them that sit in darkness,
  And to guide their feet in the way of peace.
He came not to be ministered unto, but to minister:
  He went about doing good:
He bore witness to the truth,
  And no guile was found in Him.
To Him also were the little children brought,
  And laying His hand upon their heads He blessed them.

We keep this day in memory of Jesus;
  This is the glad Christmas time.

Open wide the doors of your hearts,
And the King of glory shall come in!
Who is the King of glory?
The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.

Glory be to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, good-will to men.

XL.

FUNERAL SERVICE.

THE Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the afflicted; He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to comfort all that mourn; to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness:

O Lord, Thou art my God:
Thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.
Thou hast been a strength to the poor,
A strength to the needy in his distress,

A refuge from the storm,
A shadow from the heat.
The eternal God is our refuge,
And underneath are the everlasting arms.
He hath been our dwelling-place in all generations;
From everlasting to everlasting He is God.
None of us liveth to himself,
And no one dieth to himself;
For if we live we live to the Lord,
And if we die we die to the Lord:
Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's:
For unto Him all live.
The dust returns to the earth as it was,
And the spirit returns unto God, who gave it.

In the Father's house are many mansions;
In His presence is fullness of joy.
They shall hunger no more,
Neither thirst any more,
And God will wipe away every tear,
And death shall be no more,
Neither mourning nor crying,
Neither shall pain be any more.

And there will be no more night,
  And no need of light of lamp or sun;
For the Lord God will give them light,
  And they shall reign forever and ever.

Now unto the King eternal, the immortal, invisible, only God,
  Be honor and glory forever and ever. *Amen.*

XLI.

A PSALM OF PRAISE.

I WILL extol Thee, O God, my King,
  I will praise Thy name forever and ever!
Every day will I bless Thee,
  And praise Thy name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised:
  Yea, His greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall praise His works to another,
  And shall declare His mighty deeds.
The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
  Long-suffering and rich in mercy.

The Lord is good to all:
And His tender mercies are over all His works.
All Thy works do praise Thee, O Lord,
And Thy holy ones bless Thee,
They speak of the glory of Thy kingdom,
And talk of Thy power.
Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And Thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.
The Lord upholdeth all that fall,
And raiseth up all that are bowed down.

The eyes of all wait upon Thee, O Lord,
And Thou givest them their meat in due season.
Thou openest Thine hand,
And satisfiest the desire of every living thing.
The Lord is righteous in all His ways,
And merciful in all His works.
The Lord is nigh to all that call upon Him,
To all that call upon Him in truth.
He fulfilleth the desire of them that trust Him,
He heareth their cry and saveth them.
My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord,
And let all flesh bless His holy Name forever and ever.

PRAYERS.

I.

OUR Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread: and forgive us our trespasses as we also forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. *Amen.*

II.

O GOD, who givest us not only the day for labor and the night for rest, but also the peace of this blessed day, grant, we beseech Thee, that this season of holy quiet may be profitable to us in heavenly things, and refresh and strengthen us to return to the work which thou hast given us to do. *Amen.*

III.

WE thank Thee, O God, for the return of the morning and the renewal of our daily blessings. We love to feel that we are always surrounded by Thee, and that the blessings of each day are the gifts of Thy providence. We love to feel that Thou art coming to us in the morning air and sunshine, the evening's calm, in the love of our loved ones, in our work and our play, and in all things that make us glad and strong. May all that is beautiful remind us of Thee, the infinite Beauty. May all that is good remind us of Thee, the perfect Goodness. May all that is true lead us to Thee, the Source of all truth. Breathe Thy loving Spirit upon us all, that we may take up the burden of our daily duty and go on our way rejoicing evermore in Thee, the Lord our God. *Amen.*

IV.

OUR heavenly Father and Friend: Thine is the beauty of this fair day. Thy Spirit, which in the beginning moved on the face of the waters, still

broods over earth and sea and sky. The bright light of the sun, the pure air we breathe, the flowers of the field, the order and bounty of the universe, all pay their silent worship. To us Thou hast given voice, that our lips may speak Thy praise.

Thou hast made this world beautiful; but Thou hast a world of fairer beauty: Eye hath not seen it nor hath ear heard its sounds: Here may we cherish kindly affections, there to fill our hearts forever. Here may we delight in Thy service, there to be our joy for evermore. *Amen.*

V.

O SPIRIT of perfect wisdom and love,
May Thy presence be felt to-day in all our souls.
Open the eyes of our minds to behold Thy truth,
Open our hearts that Thy love may enter:
Nourish us with rich and heavenly thoughts;
Fill us with kind and gentle affections;
And may our worship be in spirit and in truth.

Nor let our service cease with our words:
May our whole life be a thank-offering;

May our cheerful duty be to Thee as sacrifice,
May our daily conduct be to Thee as praise:
And when the service of this life is ended
May we serve Thee in the life everlasting. *Amen.*

VI.

GLORY to Thy name forever,—
Thou of life the Guard and Giver!
Thou who slumberest not nor sleepest,
Blest are they Thou kindly keepest.
God of stillness and of motion,
Of the rainbow and the ocean,
Of the mountain, rock, and river,—
Glory to Thy name forever!

God of evening's peaceful ray,
God of every dawning day
Rising from the distant sea,
Breathing of eternity,—
Thine the flaming sphere of light;
Thine the darkness of the night:
God of life that fade shall never,—
Glory to Thy name forever!

VII.

HOLY, holy, holy Lord,
In the highest heavens adored,
Dwelling in the humble heart,
Truly Thou our Father art:
From Thy love our spirits came;
"Father, hallowed be Thy name!"

Living near to Thee alway,
Thy commands may we obey;
Daily by Thy hand be led,
Daily from Thy bounty fed:
While our daily prayer we frame,—
"Father, hallowed be Thy name!"

VIII.

O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth: who hast set Thy glory above the heavens.

When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast

ordained, what is man that Thou art mindful of him? Thou hast made him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands, and hast crowned him with glory and honor! Thou hast put all things under his feet: all sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field: the fowl of the air and the fish of the sea! O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth!

IX.

O MAGNIFY the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together:

Thou, O God, art Lord alone: Thou hast made the heavens with all their host, the earth and all things that are upon it, the seas and all that is therein, and Thou preservest them all. The eyes of all wait upon Thee, and Thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest Thine hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

O magnify the Lord with me, and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever. *Amen.*

X.

HOLY, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee:
Holy, holy, holy, Merciful and Mighty,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be!

Holy, holy, holy, though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of erring man thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity!

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,
All Thy works do praise Thy Name in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy, Merciful and Mighty,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be!

XI.

SHOW us Thy ways, O Lord; teach us Thy paths. Lead us in Thy truth and teach us. Open Thou our

eyes that we may behold the wonderful things of Thy law. Order our steps by Thy word, and let not evil have dominion over us. Cause us to know the way wherein we should walk, and teach us to do Thy will: for Thou art our God. *Amen.*

XII.

TRUTHFUL Spirit, dwell with me:
I myself would truthful be,
And with wisdom kind and clear
Let Thy life in mine appear,
And with actions brotherly
Speak my Lord's sincerity.

Tender Spirit, dwell with me:
I myself would tender be,
And with words that help and heal
Would Thy life in mine reveal:
Quick to feel and strong to bless,
With the strength of tenderness.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me:
I myself would holy be;

Separate from sin I would
Choose and cherish all things good,
And whatever I can be
Give to Him who gives to me.

XIII.

O HIGH and Holy One, who art Lord of earth and sky, Thou art also Father and Friend to us, Thy little children. Thou dost love us and care for us and Thine eye is always upon us. May we be meek and obedient to Thee. Keep our tongues from evil and our lips from speaking guile. Give us ready hands to help each other, and the loving heart that feels no kind act to be in vain. Help us to be gentle and obedient in our houses. Give us strength for our little duties. At home and at school, in our work and in our play, may we always be truthful, kind, and just. As we grow in stature may we grow also in wisdom and in Thy favor, that every year Thou givest us may find us serving Thee better and loving Thee more. And having been Thy children on earth, may we be Thy children at last, in Thy beautiful heaven above. *Amen.*

XIV.

THINE is the gentle voice we hear,
Soft as the breath of even,
That checks each fault and calms each fear
And speaks of heaven.

And every virtue we possess
And every victory won,
And every thought of holiness
Are Thine alone.

Spirit of purity and grace,
Our weakness pitying see:
O make our hearts Thy dwelling-place,
And worthier Thee!

XV.

O THOU eternal One, we thank Thee for the signs and tokens of Thyself which Thou has placed around us everywhere. We thank Thee for this

new day, for the broad earth beneath our feet, for the wonderful heavens above our heads. We thank Thee that all these things teach us of Thee. They tell us of Thy greatness; they speak of Thy wisdom, and talk of Thy power.

But more than in all these things Thou speakest to us in Thy still small voice which whispers in our souls. We thank Thee that there Thou hast written that Thou art our Father, and that Thy name is Love. May we always feel Thy presence around us and within us, and love the things that Thou lovest, and serve Thee with the service of our daily lives. *Amen.*

XVI.

GOD of the darkness,
God of the sun,
God of the universe,
God of each one,—

Breathe on our spirits Thy love and Thy healing;
Teach us content with Thy fatherly dealing;
Teach us to love Thee,

To love one another, brother his brother;
And make us all free,—

Free from the bondage of evil tradition,
Free with the freedom Thy truth giveth to us:
Teach us to serve Thee in every condition;
And still may Thy kingdom come in us and through us. *Amen.*

XVII.

TWO things do I ask of Thee,
Withhold them not from me:
Remove far from me vanity and lies;
Give me neither poverty nor riches;
Feed me with the food needful for me:
Lest I be full and deny Thee,
And say, "Who is the Lord?"
Or lest I be poor and steal,
And take the name of my God in vain.

—*Agur's Prayer.*

XVIII.

OUR Father, Thou art giving us blessings all the time: Help us to be a blessing. Thou givest us

these hands of ours: Use them as Thine own. Thou givest us these feet: Send them on thy errands. Thou givest us our voices: Hear them speak only gentleness and truth. Thou givest us this mind that thinks: Watch it thinking only clean, kindly, noble thoughts. Thou hast made our lives pleasant every day with love. We would make other lives gladder every day with our love. Something to please Thee, Father, we would learn, some little deed to thank Thee with instead of words. Some little prayer to do instead of say. Some little thing to give Thee. Thou never tired in giving much to us! *Amen.*

XIX.

FATHER in the heavens within,
Free us, children, from our sin:
Burn the sin with fire of shame
Till the all-consuming flame
Leave us like the gold refined,
Pure in heart and pure in mind.
Round us then and form us true
For the work we have to do;

Stamp us, stamp us with Thy face,
Till we go from place to place
By our service kind and just
Telling all "In God we trust,' —
Children bearing Thy imprint
Fresh and bright from God's own mint.

XX.

O GOD, Thou art our help in trouble and the refuge of all Thy children in their distress. From everlasting to everlasting Thou art God. To our weakness Thou art strength. In our darkness Thou art light. To our sorrow Thou art comfort and peace. Thou hast given us the great gift of life. Thou hast upheld us from our birth and hast filled our cup with blessing. May Thy loving-kindness to us in the past teach us always to trust in Thee. When our blessings vanish, may we never murmur, but praise Thy goodness which gave them to us. When Thou callest dear ones from our side, may we bless Thee that Thou didst make our lives richer by their presence and love. Thus waiting upon Thee, may we never be cast down, but pass from strength to strength, until we come where tears are wiped

from every eye, and all our darkness is lost in the light of eternal love. *Amen.*

XXI.

UNTO Thee, O Lord of all,
Nothing can of chance befall:
Child and seraph, mote and star,
Well Thou knowest what we are.
What Thou wilt, O Father give!
All is gain that I receive.
Let the lowliest task be mine,
Grateful, so the work be Thine.
Let me find the humblest place
In the shadow of Thy grace.
If there be some weaker one
Give me strength to lead him on:
If a blinder soul there be,
Let me guide him nearer Thee.
Let me find in Thy employ
Peace that dearer is than joy;
Out of self to love be led,
And to heaven acclimated,
Until all things sweet and good
Seem my natural habitude. *Amen.*

XXII.

OUR heavenly Father, Thy presence maketh heaven everywhere. We bless Thee for this beautiful earth and for the years Thou hast given us in it. Thou hast filled the Spring-time with flowers, the Summer with corn and fruit: and Thou hast fed our bodies with plenty and our minds with truth. In Winter Thou hast clothed the earth with snow like wool, and Thou hast kept our bodies warm and our hearts glad. Thou hast waked us and led us forth refreshed, when Thou hast spread the morning upon the mountains: When Thou hast called forth the darkness and set the stars in their places, Thou hast poured sleep on our eyelids and overshadowed us with Thy wings in the night. Like as a father pitieth his children, Thou hast pitied us and watched over us. We cannot number Thy blessings; we cannot declare Thy love. For all Thy loving-kindness we bless Thee and praise Thee, our Father. We ask not anything but to trust Thee who hast made the past so full of joy. For all the years Thou mayest give us here, we trust Thee. We trust Thee forever and ever. *Amen.*

XXIII.

FOR the wealth of pathless forests
Whereon no axe may fall;
For the winds that haunt the branches,
The young bird's timid call;
For the red leaves dropped like rubies
Upon the dark green sod;
For the waving of the forests,
We thank Thee, O our God!

For the lifting up of mountains
In brightness and in dread;
For the peaks where snow and sunshine
Alone have dared to tread;
For the dark of silent gorges
Whence mighty cedars nod;
For the majesty of mountains,
We thank thee, O our God!

For the rosebud's break of beauty
Along the toiler's way:
For the violet's eye that opens
To bless the new-born day;

For the bare twigs that in summer
Bloom like the prophet's rod;
For the blossoming of flowers,
We thank Thee, O our God!

For the hidden scroll o'erwritten
With one dear Name adored;
For the heavenly in the human;
The Spirit in the Word;
For the tokens of Thy presence
Within, above, abroad;
For Thine own great gift of Being,
We thank Thee, O our God!

XXIV.

O THOU who leadest us by Thy voice within,
And by the examples of the great and good
Whom Thou dost inspire with Thy truth:
We thank Thee that there have been those
Whose lives shine as the light,—
Holy ones who have walked with God,
Brave ones who have upheld the right,
Generous ones who have lived for others' good,—

Such as those suffering rather than wrong,
And felt Thy favor to be better than life.

O may their pure and generous lives
Be like a trumpet-call to our hearts!
May we feel that in our little spheres
We can show forth their faith, their courage,
Their love for man, their trust in God:
So may we be lifted out of selfishness and sin,
And our lives be made to glorify Thy name.
Amen.

XXV.

OUR heavenly Father: All Thy works tell us of Thee. The beauty and bloom of these early Summer days speak Thy praise. We thank Thee that Thou hast given us to live in a world so fair. We thank Thee for the hearts to love, and the minds to think—and the hand that may do Thy will. We thank Thee for the lessons of good—that we have learned here in the year gone by. O, now in the bright morning of our lives—may we learn to love Thee—by loving all that is pure and good. Here

may we so learn to walk in truth and uprightness—that our feet shall not slip in the paths of later years—nor our steps turn aside to evil. As the flowers open in the warm sunshine—so may our souls unfold in the light of Thy love—and our lives be made beautiful—and a blessing to others. And when at last we leave these dwellings of flesh—may we join the dear ones who have passed from us—and be with Thee for evermore. *Amen.*

XXVI.

EASTER.

OUR heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the joy of this day. Thou makest the waking earth glad with new life, and coverest all nature with the promise and beauty of Spring. We thank Thee for the great lesson Thou art writing over all the land. May the sun that never sets, shine to-day upon the fields of human love and hope, bringing light out of darkness and life out of death. Beside every grave may we see the risen spirit and rejoice in the trust of immortal life. We thank Thee for the tender memories of the past, and the great hopes that

lead us on; for Thy Spirit within us; for the sweet teachings of Jesus, and all the wise and good. To-day may we heed Thy voice, without us and within us, and be drawn unto Thee in love and obedience now and evermore. *Amen.*

XXVII.

CHRISTMAS.

OUR heavenly Father, we thank Thee for this season of joy. We thank Thee for the homes that shelter us, and for the friends we love. We thank Thee for the reign of peace and good will—which is coming more and more upon earth—and which this glad festival shall deepen in all our hearts. We thank Thee for Jesus, the great Teacher, whose birth we celebrate. In dark and troublous times Thou didst raise him up to be a light and guide to mankind. His lessons of love and trust gladden our hearts to-day. We thank Thee for the life he lived and for the blessed truths he taught. Wherever this festival is kept may love and good will abound. May the Christ-spirit enter and fill all

hearts. May all selfishness and ill-will die away. And so may Thy kingdom come on the earth, and Thy will be done here as it is done in heaven. *Amen.*

XXVIII.

GOD that maketh earth and heaven,
Darkness and light!
Who the day for toil hast given,
For rest the night!

May Thine angel-guard defend us,
Slumber sweet Thy mercy send us,
Holy dreams and hopes attend us,
This livelong night.

XXIX.

O THOU who givest the day for labor and the night for rest, as the shadows deepen we lift our hearts to Thee. Thou veilest the face of nature and all is still: Thou speakest to us in the soft twilight. The very silence hymns Thy praise. Thou leadest forth the stars, and callest them all by their

names. Thou art also in the shadow that closes around us. Whither can we go from Thy Spirit, and whither can we flee from Thy presence? May the eye that never slumbers, watch over us in our sleep. May the care that never faileth, guard us in our rest. Make us to know Thy loving-kindness, O Lord, in the morning, and strengthen us for the duties of another day. And when our days on earth are numbered, and we lie down to our last sleep, may we awake to the light of that heavenly morning whose sun goeth down no more forever. *Amen.*

XXX.

NOW pray we for our country,
That ever she may be
The holy and the happy,
And the gloriously free!
Who blesseth her is blessed!
So peace be in her walls;
And joy in all her palaces,
Her cottages and halls.

POEMS.

I.

ONE Lord there is, all lords above,
His name is Truth, His name is Love,
His name is Beauty, it is Light,
His will is Everlasting Right.

But ah! to Wrong what is His name?
This Lord is a Consuming Flame
To every wrong beneath the sun:
He is One Lord, the Holy One.

Lord of the Everlasting Name,
Truth, Beauty, Light, Consuming Flame;
Shall I not lift my heart to Thee,
And ask Thee, Lord, to rule in me?

If I be ruled in other wise,
My lot is cast with all that dies,
With things that harm and things that hate,
And roam by night and miss the Gate,—

The happy gate that leads to where
Love is like sunshine in the air,
And Love and Law are both the same,
Named with the Everlasting Name.

—*William B. Rands.*

II.

I SAW the beauty of the world
Before me like a flag unfurled:
The splendor of the morning sky,
And all the stars in company;
I thought, How beautiful it is!—
My soul said, There is more than this.

I saw the pomps of death and birth,
The generations of the earth;
I looked on saints and heroes crowned,
And love as wide as heaven is round:
I thought, How wonderful it is!—
My soul said, There is more than this.

Sometimes I have an awful thought
That bids me do the thing I ought:

It comes like wind, it burns like flame,
How shall I give that thought a name?
It draws me like a loving kiss——
My soul says, There is more than this.

I dreamed an angel of the Lord,
With purple wings and golden sword,
And such a splendor in his face
As made a glory in the place;
I thought, How beautiful he is!—
My soul said, There is more than this.

That angel's Lord I cannot see
Or hear, but He is Lord to me;
And in the heavens, and earth, and skies,—
The good which lives till evil dies,—
The love which I cannot withstand,—
God writes His name with His own hand.

—*William B. Rands.*

III.

STRONG-BUILDED world, of ancient days,
Shown to me for a dwelling-place,
With heights and depths and many a treasure,—
Come, I will count, and weigh, and measure,

And know you, house in which I live!
And what your chambers have to give:—
And far more sure and far more swift
Shall by my use of every gift;
From land to land, from age to age,
Larger shall grow my heritage.

And you, great over-bending roof!
Your rolling lights that shine aloof
Forever,—I will know you too,
And why you shine and what you do:
And when I know your paths and ways,
That, too, shall help me through the days,
Across the seas and round the land
As if God led me by the hand.
He leadeth me, He makes me care
For every pain His creatures bear!
I will arise and ask aloud
Of every pain that cries to God,
How it has come. And I shall know,
I shall, I shall,—God tells me so.
And many a pain shall pass away
Like darkness in the light of day.

Amen! Thus spake the soul of man
In every age since time began;

And louder yet and clearer grows
That voice divine since first it rose:—
"Wisdom and Love, not Wrath and Chance,
Showed me this fair inheritance;
And till I know it as I ought,
I know not all they meant and thought
When first they showed my world to me,
Nor all that I was meant to be:"
Thou gracious voice! go sounding on
Till all the inheritance be won!

—*William B. Rands.*

IV.

ALL things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,—
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,—
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The morning and the sunset
That lighteth up the sky.

The tall trees in the greenwood,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,—
He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who doeth all things well.

—*Anon.*

V.

WE plow the fields and scatter
The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered
By God's almighty hand.
He sends the snow in winter,
The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine
And soft refreshing rain.

He only is the maker
  Of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower,
  He lights the evening star;
The winds and waves obey him,
  By Him the birds are fed;
Much more to us his children
  He giveth daily bread.

—*Anon.*

VI.

WE say "Our Father" when we wake:—
What with the sunrise seems to break
Through every flower like a surprise,
As if a thousand loving eyes
Looked out from sunbeams, buds, and dew,
And said, "He is our Father, too?"

We little children stand and gaze
At the white evening star, whose rays
Beam down upon us like an eye
Forever open in the sky,—
Through the strange twilight asking this
Of one another, "Is it His?"

Who is He? That we cannot say.
HE IS. And by His side to stay,
To love Him in the flowers and birds,
In dear home-faces, tender words,
In all things beautiful and true,—
No more than this we ask to do.

Our Father, every day more dear,
It seems to live with Thee so near:
Thou carest for even the smallest star,
And safe within Thy heart we are.
If left alone on earth are we,
We are not orphans,—we have Thee!

—*Lucy Larcom.*

CLOSING SENTENCES AND BENEDICTIONS.

I.

HEAVENLY Father, lead us on
In the way of truth begun:
Let the light of love divine
All along our pathway shine.
Heavenly Father, lead us on
By the way of duty done:
Day by day, and hour by hour,
Onward, upward, evermore.

Amen.

II.

ONE there lives whose guardian eye
Guides our earthly destiny;
One there lives who, Lord of all,
Keeps his children when they fall.
Pass we then in love and praise,
Trusting Him through all our days,
Free from doubt and faithless sorrow:
God provideth for the morrow.

III.

THINK truly, and thy thought
Shall the world's famine feed:
Speak truly, and thy word
Shall be a fruitful seed:
Live truly and thy life shall be
A great and noble creed.

IV.

THE Lord hear thee in thy day of trouble: the name of the God of thy fathers defend thee; send thee help from His sanctuary and strengthen thee from the place of prayer.

V.

LET the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer.

VI.

MAY the Spirit that was in Jesus—the Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Love—be in all our hearts and hallow our daily lives. *Amen.*

VII.

THE Lord bless us and keep us:
The Lord make His face to shine upon us:
The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us.
And give us peace.

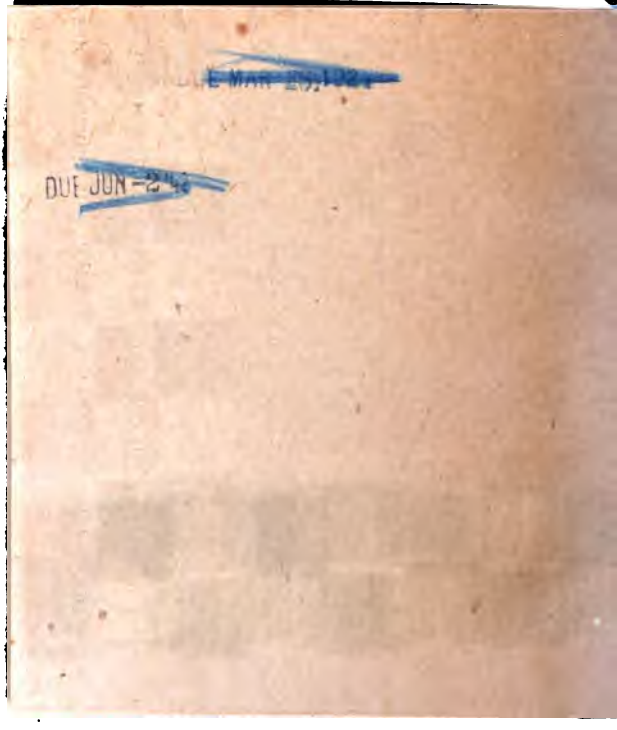
VIII.

THE Lord be with you,
And with thy spirit,
From this time forth, and even for evermore.
Amen.

IX.

GLORIA PATRI.

GLORY be to the Father who is in Heaven,
The high and holy One:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and evermore shall be,
World without end. *Amen.*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